

A Full True and Particular

ACCOUNT

Of the GHOST or Apparition of the late Duke of *Buckingham's* Father, which several Times appeared in Armor to one of the Duke's Servants; and for about half a Year before foretold the DUKE's Death.



Printed by F. C. in the Old Bailey.



Extrait a Monsieur d'Abancour, le Vie le Grand
Duc de Buckingham.

THERE were many Stories scattered Abroad at that Time, of several Prophecies and Predictions concerning the Duke's untimely and violent Death. Amongst the rest there was one, which was upon a better Foundation of Credit, than usually such Discourses are founded upon. There was an Officer in the King's *Wardrobe* in *Windsor-Castle*, of a good Reputation for Honesty and Discretion, and then about the Age of Fifty Years or more: This Man had in his Youth been Bred in a School, in a Parish where *Sr. George Villiers* the Father of the Duke liv'd; and had been much Cherished and Obliged in that Season of his Age by the said *Sr. George* whom afterwards he never saw. About Six Months before the Miserable End of the Duke of *Buckingham*, about Midnight, this Man being in his Bed at *Windsor*,

Windsor where his Office was, and in very good Health, there appeared to him on the side of his Bed, a Man of a Venerable Aspect, who drew the Curtains of his Bed, and fixing his Eyes upon him, ask'd him, if he knew him. The poor Man, half dead with Fear and Apprehension, being ask'd the second time, whether he remember'd him ? And having in that time called to his Memory the Presence of Sir *George Villiers*, and the very Cloaths he used to wear in which at that time he seem'd to be habited, he answer'd him, that he thought him to be that Person. He reply'd, he was in the Right, that he was the same, and that he expected a Service from him : which was, that he should go from him to his Son the Duke of Buckingham, and tell him, if he did not somewhat to ingratiate himself to the People, or, at least to abate the Extream Mallice they had against him, he would be suffer'd to live but a short Time. After this Discourse he disappear'd ; and the poor man, if he had been at all waking, slept well till morning, when he believ'd all this to be a dream, and consider'd it no otherwise.

The next night, or shortly after, the same Person appear'd to him, again in the same Place, and about the same Time of the Night, with an Aspect a little more severe than before, and ask'd

ask'd him, whether he had done as he requir'd him? And perceiving he had not, gave him very severe Reprehensions; and told him, he expected more Compliance from him; and that if he did not perform his Commands, he should enjoy no Peace of Mind, but should be always pursued by him: Upon which he promised to obey him. But the next Morning waking out of a good Sleep, though he was exceedingly Perplexed with the Lively Representation of all particulars to his Memory, he was willing still to persuade himself that he had only Dreamed: And consider'd that he was a Person at such a Distance from the Duke, that he knew not how to find any Admission to his Presence; much less had any hope to be believ'd in what he should say. So with great Trouble and uneasiness, he spent some Time in thinking what he should do; and in the End resolving to do nothing in the Matter.

The same Person appear'd to him the Third Time with a Terrible Countenance and bitterly reproaching him with not performing what he had promis'd to do. The Poor Man took Courage to tell him, *That in Truth he had defer'd the Execution of his Commands upon considering how Difficult a Thing it would be for him to get any access to the Duke, having Acquaintance with no Person about him; and if he could attain Ad-*
mission

mission to him, he should never be able to persuade him, that he was sent in such a manner: But he should at best be thought to be mad, or set on and employ'd by his own or the Malice of other Men to abuse the Duke, and so he should sure to be undone. The Person reply'd as he had done before, that he should never find Rest, 'till he should perform what he requir'd and therefore he were better to dispatch it. That the Access to his Son was known to be very easy; and that few Men waited long for him; and for the gaining him Credit, he would tell him Two or Three Particulars, which he charged him never to mention to any Person living, but to the Duke himself, and he should no sooner bear them but he would believe all the Rest he should say, and so repeating his Threats, he left him.

In the morning the poor man more confirm'd by the last Appearance, made his Journey to London, where the Court then was. He was very well known to Sr. Ralph Freeman, one of the Masters of Requests, who had married a lady that was nearly a lyed to the Duke, and was himself well receiv'd by him. To him this man went, and, though he did not acquaint him with all Particulars, he said enough to him to let him know there was something extraordinary in it, and the knowledge he had of the Sobriety and Discretion of the man made the more Impression in him. He desir'd that by his means he

he might be brought to the Duke to such Place and in such a manner, as should be thought fit, affirming, that he had much to say to him, and of such a nature as would require much privacy, and some time and Patience in the hearing. Sr Ralph promised he would first speak with the Duke of him and then he should understand his Pleasure: and accordingly in the first Opportunity he did inform him of the Reputation and Honesty of the man, and then what he desired, and of all he knew of the matter. The Duke according to his wanted Obedience and Condescension told him 'That he was the next day Early to hunt with the Kings: that his Horses should attend Him at *Lambeth Bridge* where he would Land by five of the Clock in the Morning, and if the man attended him there at that Hour, he would walk and speak with him as long as should be necessary. Sr. Ralph carried the man with him the next Morning, and presented him to the Duke at his Landing, who receiv'd him courteously; and walk'd aside in conference near an Hour, none but his own Servants being that Hour in that Place and they and Sr Ralph at such a Distance that they could not hear a word, tho' the Duke at some times spoke, and with great Emotion; which Sr Ralph the more easily observed and perceived because he kept his eyes allways fix'd upon the Duke having procured the Conference, upon somewhat he knew

knew there was Extraordinary: And the man told him in his return over the water that when he mention'd 'those Particulars, which were to gain him Credit the Substance where of 'he said he durst not impute to him, the Duke's Colour changed and he swore he could come to that knowledge only by the Devil: For that those 'Particulars were known only to himself and to one Person more, who, 'he was sure would never speak of it.

The Duke pursued his purpose of hunting, but was observ'd to look all the morning with great pensiveness, and in deep thoughts, without any Delight in the Exercise he was upon: and before the Morning was spent left the field and alighted at his Mothers Lodgings in *White-Hall*, with whom he was shut up for the space of Two or Three Hours: the noise of their discourse frequently reaching the ears of those who attended in the next Rooms; And when the Duke left her his Countenance appear'd full of Troubles with a Mixture of Anger. A Countenance that was never before observed in him, in any Conversation with her, towards whom he had a profound Reverence, and the Countess herself (for though she was married to a private Gentleman Sr. Thomas Compton, she had been created Countess of Buckingham, shortly after her Son First assumed that Title

Title) was at the Duke's leaving her, found overwhelmed in Tears, and in the highest Agony imaginable. Whatever there was of all this, it is a notorious Truth, that when the News of the Duke's Murther (which happen'd within few months after) was brought to his Mother, she seem'd not in the least Degree surprized but received it, as if she foreseen it ; nor did afterwards express such a Degree of Sorrows, as was Expected from such a Mother, for the Loss of such a Son.

F 10 JU 12 S.



